

TALKING POINTS
FOR REMARKS TO THE
ASMMA MANUFACTURER/DISTRIBUTOR GOVERNMENT AFFAIRS CONFERENCE
THURSDAY, MARCH 15, 1984

[The American Supply and Machinery Manufacturers Association (ASMMA) is comprised of about 600-650 companies, largely located in the Midwest, who manufacture industrial supplies and machinery. Member companies that you may be familiar with include Black & Decker, Stanley Tools and 3M. Sheldon London, the Association's Legislative Counsel, has asked that you speak informally for about 8-10 minutes about major environmental issues before the House and then answer a few questions.]

- * It is a pleasure for me to be with you today. I want to thank the Board of Directors of the American Supply and Machinery Manufacturers Association for this opportunity to speak to you.
- * This is a time of great activity in the area of environmental legislation in the House. All seven major environmental laws passed during the 1970s, including those covering air and water pollution, toxic chemicals and hazardous waste disposal, have expired. Each one is at a different stage in the legislative process.
- * The Reagan Administration's effort over the last three years to repeal or cripple these statutes has failed. The voices of millions of Americans have been heard by their elected officials. Although we no longer face wholesale elimination of our environmental laws, we still face the Administration's strong resistance to strengthening them.
- * My Subcommittee has jurisdiction over the Clean Air Act and the Safe Drinking Water Act -- two of the laws up for reauthorization this year. While both laws have been responsible for major progress in cleaning up the air and water, there is still clearly much to be done.
- * The Clean Air Act needs to be amended to include controls on utilities to curb acid rain and a schedule for cutting back on toxic air pollutants, such as arsenic, EDB, and dioxin.
- * I believe that there are some signs that the legislative stalemate over the need for acid rain control and toxic air pollutant regulation may be coming to an end.
- * In the last Congress, efforts to cut back acid rain foundered. Utilities believed that the proposals required scrubbers which would have caused electric rates to soar. Coal miners, on the other hand, believed that the proposals would lead to massive shifts to low

sulfur coal which would have caused unemployment to soar. We had the worst of both worlds -- projections of high utility rates and high unemployment. That's not exactly a winning formula for legislation.

- * In the past few months, we have begun to see some coalescing of views concerning acid rain control. More and more members and constituent groups have recognized that acid rain is a national problem demanding a national solution.
- * H.R. 3400, a bill introduced by Congressman Sikorski from Minnesota and cosponsored by Congressman Gregg from New Hampshire and myself, responds to this need for an equitable way of reducing acid rain.
- * The bill has three essential principles. Air pollution that causes acid rain should be reduced by significant amounts. Current employment should not be jeopardized as a result of our effort to control acid rain. And the costs of control should be spread so that no region bears an unfair burden.
- * H.R. 3400 targets 50 of the nation's largest and dirtiest utilities for control technology as a way of stabilizing the high sulfur coal markets that supply coal to these facilities. Rate hikes are softened in these areas through a nationwide trust fund generated by assessing a fee of about 50 cents to a dollar on the average monthly electric bill. Additional emission reductions must be achieved from other sources, including trucks. By 1995, a total of 14 million tons of sulfur and nitrogen oxides will be removed from the air per year.
- * Over the last eight months since the introduction of the bill, we have seen an ever-growing tide of support for this approach. The bill already has over 125 cosponsors from every part of the nation. This is about four times the number of cosponsors supporting any other acid rain control legislation introduced in the House during the last session of Congress. We have also heard that H.R. 3400 is the preferred legislative framework of our Committee's 15 Republican members.
- * Last week, we also made a significant advancement in our effort to limit toxic air emissions. Representative Tim Wirth and I introduced H.R. 5084 to control hazardous air pollutants from factories, cars and trucks. We were joined by a majority of the Subcommittee members, which evidences the deep and immediate concern about this issue.
- * The growing concern of the American public about exposure to toxic chemicals is not going unnoticed in Congress. I have the feeling that we are only beginning to understand the breadth of the public's demand for a safe, healthful environment. It looks like the bewildering array of mysterious initials -- EDB, PCB and others -- has become all too familiar household terminology.
- * The public fear of exposure to harmful chemicals is also behind the

pressure for strengthening the Safe Drinking Water Act. We need to move forward and set standards for the toxic chemicals in tap water. In addition, we are seeing public pressure to enact a strong groundwater protection program in this legislation.

- * I continue to believe that a clean environment is not in conflict with a healthy, vibrant economy. Our acid rain bill halts acid rain while keeping electric rate impacts to a minimum and actually creating thousands of jobs in the Midwest. Our toxic air pollutant bill protects public health while providing special standards for industries unable to comply. Over the past decade, industry has employed hundreds of thousands of people in a effort to improve the air we breathe and the water we drink. In the 1980s we are realizing that this legislation is producing one of society's most valued goods.
- * I plan to move toward a mark-up of both Clean Air and Safe Drinking Water legislation this spring. Although the time for action is limited this year, I believe that there is still an opportunity to legislate.